



PRESS RELEASE

Riverside Police Department • 4102 Orange ST • Riverside CA 92501

Phone 951.826.5902 • FAX 951.826.5939

INTEGRITY



SERVICE



EXCELLENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 20, 2012

Contact: Lieutenant Dan Hoxmeier
Central NPC Area Commander
(951)353-7965
dhoxmeier@riversideca.gov

Police Helicopter and Community Member Take Two Juvenile Burglary Suspects into Custody

Riverside, CA - On Monday, March 19th, at about 11:15 am, a resident of the 8700 block of Sorrento Drive returned home to discover two young men had broken into his home and were in the process of stealing several valuable items to include three handguns from his residence. The two burglars fled on foot into the surrounding neighborhood, as the resident called 911 to request police assistance.

Officers from the Riverside Police Department and the RPD Helicopter "Air-1" responded to begin a search of the neighborhood. As the RPD Helicopter scanned the scene from above, the RPD Communications Center began to receive calls from several witnesses that reported seeing two young men carrying items, hiding behind bushes, while changing their clothes and then continuing to run away from the scene of the burglary.

RPD Helicopter Air-1 located the two suspected burglars, as they neared the intersection of Shelby Drive and California Avenue. As the police helicopter crew followed the suspects, the police pilot and observer team simultaneously directed ground units into the area and made public address announcements, directing the suspects to stop. A local homeowner was taking out his trash, when he heard the police helicopter overhead. The homeowner saw the young men running and noticed one of them was carrying a firearm at his side. The homeowner is an off-duty private security guard; he retrieved a firearm from inside of his residence and returned outside to find the suspects near some bushes. Neither of the suspects appeared to be armed at this time. He confronted them and ordered them to stop, laydown and "show their hands." The suspects complied and were safely detained until RPD ground units arrived to taken them into custody. Police recovered all of the stolen property taken during the burglary, to include the three stolen handguns.

According to Lieutenant Dan Hoxmeier, "The pursuit and capture of these burglary suspects really showcased the partnership between the community and their police department. Our 911 call center received calls from three different witnesses along the way, updating the suspects' escape path and providing enough information for the suspects to be safely detained by a combination of our police helicopter crew, a concerned local resident and RPD ground units."

RPD investigators later found the suspects to be 16 year old juveniles. It is suspected these two juveniles have been involved in several other recent residential burglaries in the neighborhood. Anyone with information concerning this or similar burglaries is encouraged to contact Case Agent Detective Dave Riedeman at (951) 353 – 7949.

#P12-039708#